

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 7, 2007. In the Office Action, claims 1-38 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 13-16, 18, 23 and 30-38 are amended, claims 2 and 17 are canceled and claims 39 and 40 are new. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1, 3-16 and 18-40 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §101

Claims 30-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 30-38 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 US.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Menezes et al. (US 2003/0023422). Of these claims, claims 1 and 23 are independent claims, claims 2 and 17 are canceled and claims 1, 7, 8, 16, 18 and 23 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claims 1 and 23 are not shown in the cited reference and are therefore in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 8 and 16-22 are also in condition for allowance at least based on their dependency on allowable base claim 1, but are also not shown in the cited reference.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §103

Claims 3-6, 9-15 and 24-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Menezes et al. in view of Brown et al. (US 5,477451). Of these claims, claim 30 is independent and claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 13-15 and 30-38 are amended.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 3-6, 9-15 and 24-29 are in condition for allowance at least based on their dependence on allowable base claim 1 or 23. It is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 30 is not shown in the combination of cited references and is therefore in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that

claims 31-38 are also in condition for allowance at least based on their dependency on allowable base claim 3, but are also not shown in the combination of cited references.

New Claims

Claims 39 and 40 have been added to the application and depend from base claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claims 39 and 40 are in condition for allowance at least based on their dependence on allowable base claim 1, but are also not shown in any of the cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1, 2-16 and 18-40 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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